

Notes on Some Longicorns from Subtropical Texas (Coleop.: Cerambycidae).

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Since the subtropical insect fauna of Brownsville, Texas, was first made famous by Townsend, and later by Wickham, Schwarz, and Schaeffer, this interesting region has been sought by many collectors. During recent years the development of good roads and improved methods of transportation have eliminated the necessity for spending long periods of time in traveling to and from Southern Texas. Brownsville is on the direct air route to Central America and Mexico and may be reached by air from almost any point in Eastern United States. The path of the motorist is made easy by paved roads from California or New York. What a change from the days when Prof. Wickham first bumped and skidded his way to Brownsville in a stage coach!

During a short period in the summer of 1930, and again in the late spring of 1932, the writers had the privilege of collecting in Brownsville. The limited time on both occasions allowed us only a brief introduction to the fauna. We found it interesting, however, to compare notes with previous writers, and especially with Mr. Schaeffer who was the last to describe the region.

At the present time, the subtropical areas which Mr. Schaeffer refers to as "covered with a dense forest and thick undergrowth of varied shrubbery and a rich vegetation of lower plants," are greatly reduced both in size and number as a result of the encroachment of agriculture. Only half a dozen such thickets still exist and few of these are more than an acre or two in size. Most of these areas are on private property, and if the owner is unsuccessful in driving off the would-be collector, the ticks and "redbugs" usually achieve this purpose.

The Palmetto Grove, "consisting of *Sabal mexicana* of enormous size, and a variety of shrubs and trees densely overgrown or bound together by several species of vine," is now a picnic ground where one may collect upon payment of the twenty-five cent admission price. Much of the undergrowth has given way

to benches, tables, and paths, although there are still a few untouched spots where collecting is possible.

Most of the uncultivated land in Brownsville is forested with Mexican ebony, Huisache, Mimosa, and various related thorny trees. In these areas a continual process of clearing is taking place, and around freshly cut trees we found excellent collecting not only in the daytime, but at night with the lantern. Most of the longicorns collected in this manner were of the more widely distributed species, although subtropical forms were not uncommon.

The Cerambycidae of the Brownsville region are particularly interesting because they represent a greater proportion of subtropical species than may be found in any other family of the Coleoptera. The first list of Brownsville Cerambycidae was published by Prof. Townsend (1898) and included forty-three species. The second list was that of Mr. Schaeffer (1908) and comprised seventy-eight species.

It is interesting to note how few species have been added since Mr. Schaeffer's paper appeared. Col. Casey, (1912, 1913, 1924) has described several species from this locality, but most of these are species which appear in the list under other names and hence do not materially swell the total. Among the species included below are only eight which were not in Mr. Schaeffer's list. Of these eight species, *Neoclytus acuminatus* is widely distributed, *Anoplium moestum*, *Ataxia hubbardi*, and *Lepturges minutus* are found in other parts of the South, *Eburia haldemani* and *Hyperilis pallida* are typically Texan, and only *Ecyrus cornutus* and *Oncideres cornuticeps* appear to be truly subtropical. These and recently described species bring the Brownsville total to approximately eighty-eight, of which we collected sixty-five species during our ten-day visit (May 29-June 8, 1932). Since the host plants of few of these species have been recorded, the following notes are offered in the hope that they will prove of assistance to other collectors.

1. ARCHODONTES MELANOPUS var. CILIPES Say. Taken under loose bark of various trees and occasionally at light.

2. SMODICUM CUCUJIFORME Say. Small series under bark of dead *Salix*.

3. *ACHRYSON SURINAMUM* Say. This species was beaten in considerable numbers from Mexican ebony, *Pithecolobium flexicaulis*, and Huisache, *Acacia farnesiana*, and was taken commonly at light. Specimens vary from 9 to 18 mm. in length.

4. *A. CONCOLOR* LeConte. The larger specimens of this species are about the size of the smaller specimens of *A. surinamum*. *A. concolor* bores in small twigs of *Acacia* and *Pithecolobium* and is occasionally taken at light. Numerous examples were reared from branches which had been girdled by *Oncideres pustulatus* Lec.

5. *GNAPHALODES TRACHYDEROIDES* Thomson. This species is most active at dusk and in the early evening, when it may be captured flying about freshly cut *Acacia*.

6. *EBURIA STIGMATICA* Chev. Under loose bark of *Salix* and *Acacia*.

7. *E. MUTICA* var. *MANCA* LeConte. A few examples taken at light.

8. *E. HALDEMANI* LeConte. One example under bark of *Salix*.

9. *PANTOMALLUS OVICOLLIS* LeConte (?*Eburia densa* Casey). Taken occasionally on *P. flexicaulis* and at light.

10. *ROMALEUM TAENIATUM* LeConte. Taken under bark of *Salix* and at light.

11. *ELAPH DION MIMECTICUM* Schaeffer. This species hides beneath loose bark and around branch stubs on living trees, and was taken on *Salix*, *Acacia*, *Celtis* and *Fraxinus*. It is also common at light.

12. *HYPERMALLUS INCERTUS* Newman. Taken at light.

13. *ANEPSYRA TENUE* LeConte. Taken on *Acacia farnesiana* and at light.

14. *ANOPLIUM INERME* Newman. Occasionally taken at light.

15. *A. MOESTUM* LeConte. A small series taken at light.

16. *A. TRUNCATUM* LeConte. Reared from girdled branches of *Acacia* and also taken at light.

17. *A. NIVEIVESTITUM* Schaeffer. Beaten from *Fraxinus texensis* and other trees in the Palmetto Grove. The specimens lie very still on the beating sheet and are apt to be overlooked.

18. *PSYRASSA TEXANA* Schaeffer. Beaten from *A. farnesiana* and taken at light.

19. *PS. SALLEI* Bates. This rare species was taken on *Acacia* and at light.

20. *COMPSA TEXTILIS* var. *ALACRIS* Bates. One example taken on *A. farnesiana*.

21. *IBIDION EXCLAMATIONIS* Linell. This species hides during the day around rotten branch stubs of *Acacia*, *Mimosa*, *Celtis*, and other trees and was reared from branches girdled by *Oncideres pustulatus* Lec.

22. *I. TOWNSENDI* Linell. Also reared from girdled branches and found under conditions similar to those of the preceding. Both species rest with their antennae placed straight forward giving them the appearance of a small twig.

23. *HYPEXILIS PALLIDA* Horn. One example of this rare species was taken at light.

24. *OBRIMUM MACULATUM* Oliv. Very common on *Acacia*, *Salix*, *Celtis*, *Fraxinus*, and other trees, as well as at light. A few specimens were reared from branches girdled by *Oncideres*.

25. *O. MOZINNAE* Linell. Beaten from *Acacia* and attracted to light.

26. *CYLLENE CRINICORNIS* Chevr. This species was taken running rapidly over freshly cut branches of *Acacia farnesiana* and *Pithecolobium flexicaulis*. During the day the beetles are very active and rather difficult to capture, but after dark they may be drawn from brush piles by means of a lantern.

27. *NEOCLYTUS ACUMINATUS* Fab. This species must be added to the two *Neoclytus* listed by Mr. Schaeffer (*N. mucronatus* and *N. abbreviatus*). The Brownsville form differs from the typical in being dark brown instead of reddish, the head, antennae, and legs rufous, and the elytral fascia white instead of yellow. Examples reared from branches of *Acacia* girdled by *Oncideres pustulatus* Lec.

28. *EUDERCES EXILIS* Casey. Beaten from *Acacia* and *Salix*. The adult beetles bear a striking resemblance to the ants which over-run every tree and shrub.

29. *TETRANODES NIVEICOLLIS* Linell. Beaten from *Mimosa* and *Acacia*.

30. *RHOPALOPHORA LAEVICOLLIS* LeConte. This beautiful species was taken on *Sambucus* in the Palmetto Grove.

31. *RH. RUGICOLLIS* LeConte. Taken on *Salix*.

32. *RH. ANGUSTATA* Schffr. Taken on *Celtis* in the Palmetto Grove.

33. *STENOSPHECUS DOLOSUS* Horn. A small series taken on sunflower stems.

34. *SPIHAENOTHECUS SUTURALIS* LeConte. Taken on *Acacia farnesiana*.

35. *DENDROBIUS MANDIBULARIS* Serv. One specimen taken in flight.

36. *THRYALLIS UNDATUS* Lac. Beaten from *Celtis* and *Salix* in the Palmetto Grove. The Brownsville specimens are not quite typical, differing from the form figured by Lacordaire in

having the undulating lines of the elytra shattered and broken. This species at first glance looks like a small specimen of *Synaphacta guesri* Lec.

37. *ASTYLIDIUS PARVUS* LeConte. A small series taken on *Celtis*.

38. *LEIOPUS WILTI* Horn. This species was found only on *Acacia farnesiana*.

39. *L. CRASSULUS* LeConte. Taken on *Acacia* and related trees. Like Mr. Schaeffer, we did not find *Leptostylus biustus* Lec., and it seems quite likely that this is the form that was called *L. biustus* in previous Brownsville lists.

40, 41. *L. SPP.* Two undetermined species taken on *Fraxinus texensis* and jungle plants. Casey has described *L. texanus* and *L. houstoni* from Brownsville but we cannot identify these from the descriptions. This genus is in great need of revisional study.

42. *LEPTURGES MINUTUS* Champ. and Knull. One specimen taken in miscellaneous beating, and very kindly compared with the type by Mr. J. N. Knull. The Brownsville specimen is half again as large as the type and more plainly marked, but appears to be assignable to *L. minutus*.

43. *L. CELTIS* Schaeffer. Taken on *Celtis* in the Palmetto Grove.

44. *L. ANGULATUS* LeConte. Abundant on every type of tree and shrub. Several hundred specimens captured show little variation in maculation. This appears to be a valid species.

45. *DECTES SPINOSUS* Say (?*Dectes latitarsus* Casey). A few specimens taken on small annuals.

46. *ECYRUS FASCIATUS* Hamilton. This is one of the most beautiful of our longicorns and bears a striking resemblance to the lichen-covered branches on which it is found. Examples were taken on dead branches of *Salix* and other trees.

47. *E. DASYCERUS* var. *TEXANUS* Schaeffer. Beaten from dead branches of *Acacia farnesiana* and taken at light. In our series none show any intergradation with typical *E. dasycerus* Say.

48. *E. CORNUTUS* Linsley. A small series beaten from dead *Salix*.

49. *EUPOGONIUS FULVOVESTITUS* Schaeffer. Taken in the Palmetto Grove.

50. *E. VESTITUS* Say. Beaten from *Fraxinus texensis*.

51. *PYGMAEOPSIS VITICOLA* Schaeffer. This interesting little species was beaten from jungle vines in the Palmetto Grove. The female is 4.5 mm. long, with the pubescence of the elytra mottled brownish, black, and white. The white pubescence is arranged in longitudinal interrupted lines. The male is 3 mm.

long, the elytra uniformly cinereus, with darker areas in the basal and sub-apical region. The male does not have the mottled appearance of the female and lacks the interrupted white lines of the elytra.

52. *ONCIDERES PUSTULATUS* LeConte. This species appears to be active in late summer and fall, and from the abundance of its work, examples must be rather numerous at that time of year. *O. pustulatus* girdles branches of both *Acacia farnesiana* and *Pithecollobium flexicaulis*, selecting branches an inch to an inch and one-half in diameter and six to twelve feet in length. The larvae are restricted to the main portion of the branches, leaving the outer twigs to smaller beetles which avail themselves of this specially prepared breeding place. Among the insects reared from these outer branches were eight species of longicorns.

53. *O. TEXANUS* HORN (?*Oncideres subtropicus* Casey). This species was taken girdling small twigs of *Acacia farnesiana*.

54. *O. CORNUTICEPS* Schaeffer. This fine species was described from Texas without definite locality and this appears to be the first record in regard to its distribution. One male and two females were captured on *Celtis* in the Palmetto Grove. Mr. Schaeffer has very kindly compared these specimens with his type, and found them to agree in all important respects. The coloration of this species suggests *O. sparsa* Bates.

55. *APORTAXIA LINEATA* Hamilton. This species is beaten from dead branches of *Salix* and is usually taken with *Ecyrus cornutus* Linsley. Three examples taken from jungle vines appear to represent a new species of *Aporataxia*.

56. *ATAXIA CRYPTA* Say. Taken on *Salix*, *Acacia*, *Celtis*, and at light.

57. *A. HUBBARDI* Fisher. Numerous examples taken from the stems of sunflower.

58. *A. TIBIALIS* Schaeffer. One example of this interesting species was taken in the Palmetto Grove. This is not a typical *Ataxia*.

59. *HIPPOPSIS LEMNISCATA* Fab. Taken commonly on jungle vines, sunflower, and small annual plants.

60. *DORCASTA CINEREA* Horn. Taken on sunflower, small annuals, and at light.

61. *SICYOBIUS BROUSI* Horn. Miscellaneous beating in the Palmetto Grove.

62. *MECAS INORNATA* Say. On small composite plants.

63. *M. PERGRATA* Say. One example in Palmetto Grove.

64. *HEMIERANA SUTURALIS* Linell. Miscellaneous beating.

65. *CATHETOPTERON AMOENA* Hamilton. A number of examples of this very pretty little species were taken on *Celtis*.